

CITY OF AUBURN
EXAMINING BOARD OF PLUMBERS
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2013

Members Present: Mr. Frank Siracusa Mr. Greg Gallinger, Mr. Steve Bianco, Mr. Carl Castiglione, Mr. Bill Orman

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Kim Bauso, Brian Hicks

Frank Siracusa called the meeting to order on Tuesday, November 12, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Siracusa: Billy, what do you got? Anything for us?

Mr. Orman: No I don't have anything. Did we get the minutes from the last meeting?

Mr. Siracusa: Oh, that's right. I forgot to approve them. Did everyone receive them? Minutes, we should approve them? Motion?

Minutes approved.

Mr. Siracusa: Billy, did you see that letter that was sent to Roto Rooter?

Mr. Orman: Yup.

[Copy of the letter passed around to Board members. Mr. Siracusa reads the letter aloud.]

Mr. Orman: When was that sent out?

Mr. Siracusa: It was sent out October 21st.

Mr. Orman: Any response at all? Nothing, huh? Well, it's certainly black and white, right? You know unfortunately, Roto Rooter's main thing is the sewer cleanings so when you see their trucks, automatically they could say "we're just doing cleanings". The problem is then they get into these houses and people start asking them "can you do this? Can you do that?" and they're going to say of course they can. The homeowner doesn't know, but the contractor certainly does when they're not licensed.

Mr. Siracusa: Well, hopefully this letter straightens them out.

Mr. Castiglione: This morning I saw the Mr. Rooter truck and I stopped, introduced myself and said "you're just cleaning the sewer right?" And they said "oh yeah, we're not plumbers, just cleaning."

Mr. Siracusa: Anything else, Billy? All set?

Mr. Orman: I just have one question, I believe it's 11 or 13. Anyone know anything about it?

Mr. Castiglione: That's E. Genesee St. Grillo. Brendan Grillo. Phil Fletcher's doing it.

Mr. Bianco: Um, Phil Fletcher's father passed away, Carl, what's he got six months or is it a year, in our code?

Kim Bauso: I believe this was discussed in the September meeting. Almost word for word.

Mr. Bianco: Okay, maybe we did. So where we at with it? I never got an answer.

Kim Bauso: Here, Carl. I highlighted those two parts for you. Two years.

[Section of Code being read by Board members.]

Mr. Siracusa: Greg, do you have the minutes from the past few meetings there?

Mr. Gallinger: No, but I do remember this conversation.

Mr. Bianco: I never got an answer. I thought it was a year but this here says "not exceeding two years". I never remember agreeing to that.

Mr. Castiglione: I'm just saying it's in the City Code. I don't know when it was put in.

Mr. Bianco: I thought this Board changed that. Carl, is this from the newest Code?

Mr. Castiglione: Yes.

Mr. Gallinger: We never changed that because I thought we figured it might not be able to be done in one year.

Mr. Siracusa: Does he (Phil Fletcher) know he has to take the test?

Mr. Castiglione: Yes, he knows that. I talked to him. He plans to take it October '14.

Mr. Siracusa: Okay...

Mr. Bianco: Kim, have you found the minutes where we said that?

Kim Bauso: I found it where you discussed it months back (in February '13) in general, hypothetically, pertaining to Al retiring and such. I know you discussed it I think in September of this year but it was not something I typed. It's on the recordings for sure if you want me to go back and review it.

Mr. Bianco: Yeah, let me know if you find it.

Mr. Siracusa: Doesn't matter anyway. We'd have to change the Code. For Fletcher it's a done deal. Okay, Greg? Nothing. Carl? Nothing. What would the Fire Department do when they take over Codes. Would it affect the Board?

Mr. Castiglione: No.

Mr. Siracusa: Would it affect the Codes Office?

Mr. Castiglione: No. Years ago we were with the Fire Department.

[Discussion amongst Board Members regarding Codes at Fire.]

Mr. Orman: What's the discussion with the City? They going to do it?

Mr. Bianco: Well, they've been thinning out the Codes Department. Sounds like they could use the extra hands.

Mr. Orman: Will your office stay where it is?

Mr. Castiglione: Yeah. We're staying right where we are. Years ago, we were physically located at the Fire Department. You had to go to the firehouse to get your permits.

Mr. Siracusa: As long as it's not really going to affect you guys.

[List of plumbing permits for month of October passed around to Board members per Mr. Bianco's request.]

Mr. Siracusa: Do you people want to see the permits that were issued or want me to just read them? I'll just read this part. For 2012 there were 247 plumbing permits for 2013 year to date they've issued 202 plumbing permits.

Kim Bauso: Steve, that was for you. You'd asked before how we were tracking for the number of plumbing permits issued. I had said we were right on track to be issuing the same number we do every year. For 2012 there were 247 and so far this year we have 202 but we have six more weeks to go. Right on par.

Mr. Bianco: That was for the whole year?

Mr. Siracusa: Yes for 2012. And 2013 is year to date.

Mr. Bianco: How many more plumbers do we have this year?

Kim Bauso: I believe it's three. Two or three.

Mr. Siracusa: Anybody else got anything?

Mr. Orman: When a contractor does a job for water line replacement or sewer line replacement, the services that have to be done during that project, does that not have to be done by a licensed person?

Mr. Siracusa: I asked that questions before to Carl because there does seem to be a lot of services being replaced but that comes under the City and the City doesn't have to have a license. Because the City inspects it, right? They've been hooking into sewers, Carl. I've seen that. Elizabeth St. They've done it. Along Genesee St they've done it. They're hooking them up to the private from the lateral. Other

cities that has to be a licensed plumber doing that. Wasn't it Engineering who was supposed to take care of that? This has been brought up more than once.

Mr. Orman: York St.

Mr. Siracusa: Yeah, York St. Supposedly inspected by the State because it was a State project.

Mr. Orman: Wouldn't the City have a representative down there?

Mr. Siracusa: They're supposed to. I don't know. I thought hook ups had to be done by a licensed plumber. This has been a bone of contention for a long time.

Mr. Orman: And we've got major work coming up on Franklin St. That's going to be pretty widespread.

Mr. Siracusa: Can we check the legality of that, Carl? I know Genesee St has water lines put in and laterals put in because I saw the guys. I came to ask you then about that. We're breaking our own Charter if we don't go after these people to see what the story is. This Franklin St. if it's going all the way to five points, this is probably a good time to find out.

Mr. Bianco: Is there another company working with Rizzo there?

Mr. Castiglione: Not that I know of.

[Multiple discussions going on regarding Franklin St project.]

Mr. Orman: Getting back to the connections. It's pretty black and white. It's supposed to be a licensed plumber for any sanitary and any water.

Mr. Siracusa: Check on subcontractors too. They're supposed to be licensed that's all there is to it.

Mr. Hicks: I'm not aware of this going on with the plumbers. We had that problem with the electricians but we took care of that. Licensing is the same way though. They can bring in another company but it has to be on their payroll.

Mr. Siracusa: But is he hiring the company, the president or just the manpower?

Mr. Hicks: Just the manpower.

Mr. Siracusa: Well, that there is legal then. I'm getting a little perturbed because we've had so many projects go in the City of Auburn where none of our local contractors got any of the work.....Same thing with Mercy Rehab, same thing with Orchard St, the housing project on Clark St.....very discouraging.

[Sidebar discussion going on regarding tax breaks, local contractors, big projects going on, who's doing which jobs, etc.]

Mr. Castiglione: These are licensed people with the City of Auburn. I don't care if they're from Indiana. How you going to stop that legally?

Mr. Siracusa: I didn't say stop it. I just said for tax breaks they should have to use local contractors.

Mr. Castiglione: That's all up to City Council, AIDA maybe. Not us.

Mr. Siracusa: We're going to have a new Council soon. Maybe we should sit down with them and explain. Okay, anything else?

Mr. Orman: Kim, you know that list of permits from the month of October? Hares and Orman didn't pull any permits in the month of October. I had them saved up. I made it in today. I didn't make October. To my point, I know you said the City Manager has only had a couple complaints about the days you're open and the long waits. I don't know how you can operate down there anymore.

Mr. Bianco: They can't! You can never get your permits on time anymore. I always get them like three days after I did the job. Why is just one person doing that job? I mean she has too much work. Why don't they get some help? She can't handle it. Get somebody else.

Mr. Castiglione: They think they're doing her a favor, they're not.

Mr. Bianco: How can there be that much work down there? I mean, really? For the City of Auburn?!

Mr. Castiglione: We'd love to give her another girl, be open five days a week again.

Mr. Bianco: I'm telling you Carl, people like it. Because it's a loophole. They don't want to get permits. It's a reason not to come in. I always try to get my permits. I stockpile them. The City would make a lot more revenue if they open the doors back up and start taking more permits. And start enforcing that! The Plumbing Board should or something.

Mr. Bianco: So you think if we talk to or write to the City Manager, that would do something?

Mr. Orman: Should the Plumbing Board compose a letter?

Mr. Bianco: Yeah, we should.

Kim Bauso: Guess who types that letter? It should come from you but not be one more thing I have to do.

Mr. Orman: Oh right, we could do it ourselves, in our own handwriting is fine.

Mr. Hicks: Everybody's got a laptop and a printer at home. How hard is it for you guys to spit a letter out?

Mr. Orman: Yeah, right. Kim's right. She shouldn't be involved. By the way, we should do another newsletter here soon if you guys could bring some ideas to the next meeting for Kim.

Mr. Bianco: Lack of permits.

[Discussion about options for compiling complaints from the Board &/or plumbers to the City Manager about Codes office hours.]

Brian Hicks: This letter should be addressed to the City Manager but copied to all your Councilors too. For some reason this just isn't a hot topic to talk about. They can't put another person in our office right now for the simple fact of the budget. They're not seeing any lost revenue either. None that's relevant anyways.

Mr. Bianco: How long have you been on the two day thing?

Kim Bauso: April.

Mr. Hicks: The workload has not dropped in the office.

Mr. Bianco: Before you weren't charging for homeowner's permits. Building permits, right? Now there's a cost? So there's another reason things weren't adding up.

Mr. Hicks: There's a fee for all permits pretty much now.

Mr. Bianco: Who was responsible for pulling those fees out to begin with?

Mr. Hicks: Smith.

Mr. Bianco: For years, Auburn Code Enforcement was always very strict. I wish it had stayed that way.

Mr. Siracusa: Okay, gentlemen. When's the next meeting, Kim?

Kim Bauso: December 10, 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

